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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Colombia/Ecuador/Venezuela

DATE DISTR. 22 JUN 50

SUBJECT Expulsion of Maria Lucas de Machado
from Colombia

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PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED] 25X1A

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)DATE OF
INFO.SUPPLEMENT TO 25X1X
REPORT NO.

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1. Maria Ida Lucas de Machado, estranged wife of the Venezuelan Communist leader Gustavo Machado Morales, has been expelled from Colombia at the instigation of the Chief of the Foreigners' Section of the Colombian National Police.* Under arrest since 27 May 1950 and under surveillance during the last 24 hours of her stay in Colombia, she departed Bogota via Avianca for Quito, Ecuador, on 3 June 1950.

2. Her expulsion was prompted by the fear that her husband, who is understood to be in hiding in Venezuela, might come to Colombia. The police intended to send her to Venezuela, but at her request they allowed her to go to Ecuador.

3. She had lived in Colombia for several years and showed some disposition to appeal the expulsion order to a higher authority. She offered a Conservative lawyer, Carlos Reyes Posada, 5000 pesos to take the case to court. Reyes Posada refused after talking with police authorities who were determined to remove her from Colombia.

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4. [REDACTED] although Maria Lucas de Machado has been a militant Communist for many years, she has not been particularly active since early in 1949 when her film distributing company, Exito Films, was no longer able to distribute Russian films in Colombia. Communist Party leaders, [REDACTED] do not have implicit faith in her because of her immoral habits.

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25X1A * Comment. Maria Lucas de Machado, also known as Ida Machado, was manager of Exito Films in Colombia, a distributing agency for Artkino Films of New York. Exito Films was founded in August 1944 and distributed Russian, Argentine and Mexican films. In January 1949, Maria Lucas de Machado announced that Exito Films would not show Russian films as it was no longer possible since the departure of the Soviet Legation from Bogota. She also said that numerous difficulties had arisen over the exhibition of Russian films in Caracas, Venezuela, as well, despite the presence of a Soviet Legation in that country.

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Maria Lucas de Machado is reputedly a woman of great intelligence and is allegedly an enthusiastic disciple of Communist doctrines. She was alleged to have cooperated with the Partido Socialista Democratica (former name of the PCC) by receiving large quantities of Soviet propaganda from the Soviet Legation for subsequent distribution to third parties. She is reported to have contacts with various Communist Party officials in Venezuela, Chile and Mexico, attributed in part to her husband's prestige as a known revolutionary Communist. It has been reported that she served as a contact between the Soviet Legation and the PCC, and although at the time of that report it did not appear that she belonged to the PCC, she reportedly carried a membership card of the International Communist Party, issued in Mexico.

Maria Lucas de Machado, who was born in Bretagne, France, went to Russia in 1934, and while there attended the 17th Congress of the Communist Party in Moscow. She returned to Paris in 1935, where she remained until 1939. From Paris, she traveled to Mexico and reportedly joined the Communist Party of that country. It was during her stay in Mexico that she married Gustavo Machado Morales. The Machados then came to Colombia and with the financial assistance of Guillermo Machado, a wealthy brother of Gustavo, they started Exito Films. Maria reportedly joined the PCC in 1943 and later withdrew, allegedly because of pressing business activities. When the PCC changed its name to Partido Socialista Democratica in August 1944, she applied for a new membership and was accepted on 10 September 1944. Later, she apparently again withdrew from Party activities.

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